

Intro: It happens to us all. We get put in a situation that is so far outside of our comfort zone that it scares us. Even if we are not in physical danger, the task in front of us is so foreign to us, so out of the ordinary, so beyond what we are used to that it terrifies us! **Ministry: Relationship: Work: School:**
TV Show Fear Factor specialized in that! All about causing you to fail
God does just the opposite!

Finding Confidence When Courage Fails Gideon

Judges 6 Pg 174

1. Look Beyond the Circumstances to the Promise of God Vs 1-16

One of the first things that happens to us when we are challenged to go beyond ourselves is we get overwhelmed by the task or the activity itself. Create a psychological barrier. Psych ourselves out! We are defeated before we start because all we can see is the problem! Gideon was right there!

- **Circumstances:**

- ~Land was overwhelmed by invaders vs 1-6 (locusts)
- ~Gideon was hiding to protect himself and his possessions vs 11 (winepress)
- ~God did not seem to be present! Vs 13 (Where are the wonders?) abandoned us 13
- ~Gideon viewed himself as totally inadequate for the task vs 15 (I am weakest)

- **Promise:**

- ~Vs 17: Go in the strength you have, and save Israel out of Medians hands!
- ~You don't need anything other than my promise!
 - Go: Obedience precedes strength! Go First
 - Strength you have: Whatever you have is sufficient God is all you need
- ~Vs 36: As you have promised! God's promise is enough!
 - We seek other evidence, other guarantees. Heb 11...faith is....

Principle: *We walk by faith, not by sight! 2 Cor 5:6*

Focus on the promise, not the Problem!

Truth: *God always has resources you cannot see! 2 Kings 6:17 pg 264*

2. Look Beyond Yourself to the Presence of God Vs 14-15

Gideon had the same problem many of us do when we face something greater than ourselves. He could only envision using what he had, his strength, his abilities, his wisdom, his power
He forgot the single most important point of all. When God is present...You have all you need!

- **Gideon's view of himself**

- ~Victim: hiding in winepress....(hole in the ground!)
- ~Alone: Where are all the miracles....Vs....wonders of Egypt
- ~Weakest link! "I am...the weakest link! (Clan, tribe, family)
- ~Fearful
 - Vs 27: Afraid to publicly stand for God against false worship!
 - 7:10: Afraid to attack with every assurance possible! (2X)
 - If you are afraid, go listen...Gideon said...BRB

- **God's View of Gideon**

- ~mighty warrior!
- ~The Lord is with you vs 12
- ~The Lord is sending you vs 14
- ~Your strength...with me...is enough...vs 14

Principle: *If God is for us...That is enough to carry the day! Rom 8:31ff*

Truth: *God will NEVER leave His Children to fend for themselves.*

De 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

3. Look Beyond Your Strength to the Power of God.

When we are facing one of these kind of situations, we almost always ask the wrong question.

We Ask: Can I do this...It's the wrong Question: When you ask wrong question..what do you get?

Should Ask: Does GOD want me to do this! Because if God is in it...you cannot fail!

- **Israel's Problem:** Ch 7:1-7 Too many men! (4 to 1) 35K to 135k 4 to 1
God reduced the army! 32k to 300K (vs 135K) 4 to 1 vs 450 to 1! (8:10)
God wanted it to be abundantly clear...He was at work...Didn't want them confused
God put them in a place where they were absolutely dependant upon His intervention
So that they would KNOW He had delivered them...Not be able to boast!

- **God's Solution:**
He Caused Ch 7:15-22 "The Lord caused" the men to turn on one another!
God in one simple act changed the entire outcome of the battle
450 to 1! And God delivered Israel, and Utterly defeated the Midianites

APPLIC: Here is what I know...Most of us will do ANYTHING to avoid being in a position where we are utterly dependant upon. God. We hear Him calling us to something beyond ourselves, greater than our own strength, greater than our own abilities, greater than our own gifts...and because all we can see are the circumstances, and all we can see is our limitations, and all we can see is our own strength...We refuse to go to the battle. And we limit God's work in our life...because like Gideon, we are afraid...But unlike Gideon, we don't listen to the voice of God in our life.

Listen to me...God wants better for you! He wants more for you! He wants to strengthen you, empower you, use you. You hear him saying...

- The Lord is with you, Mighty SS teacher
- The Lord is with you, Mom
- The Lord is with you, Dad
- The Lord is with you, Ministry leader
- The Lord is with you Deacon
- The Lord is with you Youth Leader

And you say, just like Gideon...Where? All I can see are my circumstances, All I can see is my limitations, I don't see you...All I can see is my weakness...

God says to you..Good! That's Exactly what I want you to see..Because when I deliver you, When I use you, When I do something wonderful through you...No one will be confused...They will know it is me!

Principle: Zech 4:6 "This is the word of the LORD ...'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."

Truth: You cannot know the truth of any circumstance until you have heard from God!

CONCL:

Where do you hear God calling you today?

- Family? School? Work? Ministry? Relationship?

Here are some things You Can Do When Your Courage Fails:

1. Be obedient BEFORE you see His provision.
2. Ask God to open your eyes to His unseen provision.
3. Stay focused on the problem solver...not the problem!
4. Trust What God says about you..not what you feel about yourself! (Mighty warrior!)

